Local Education Agency
Ad Hoc Workgroup Meeting
April 5, 2006 Meeting Summary

Location: Sacramento City Unified School District

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization/Title
1. Liz Touhey	CDHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
2. Barbara Schultz	CDHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
3. Carol Massey-McCants	CDHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
4. Lonnie King	CDHS
5. John DiCecco	Los Angeles Unified School District (USD)
6. Laura Baynham	Mendocino County Office of Education (COE)
7. Cynthia White-Piper	San Bernardino City USD
8. Margie Bobe	Los Angeles USD
9. Sue Hamblin	Stanislaus COE
10. Judy Holzapfel	Glenn COE
11. Anysia Drumheller	Butte COE
12. Susan Bier	Konocti USD
13. Cathy Bennett	Sacramento City USD
14. Greg Englar	Sonoma COE
15. Robert Powell	California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
16. Judy Dorn	Fresno COE
17. Cathy Bray	Los Angeles COE
18. Barbara Miller	Fresno USD
19. Jan Newkirk	Fresno USD
20. Kevin Harris	Navigant Consulting, Inc.
21. Marna Hammer	Navigant Consulting, Inc. (via phone)
22. Gloria Eng	Navigant Consulting, Inc.
23. Marlana Evans	Navigant Consulting, Inc. (via phone)
24. Kirsten Martens	Navigant Consulting, Inc. (via phone)
25. Rania Rampersad	Navigant Consulting Inc. (via phone)

<u>Handouts</u>

Each participant received a folder with copies of the following: Agenda, LEA Attachment A – Types of Activities Conducted During Assessments and Treatments, and Navigant Consulting's PowerPoint presentation. Copies of the CDHS letter requesting CMS reconsider the Free Care waiver, and sample letters of support for Assembly Bills 2950 and 2837 were also distributed.

Purpose

The meeting was convened by the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) in partnership with LAUSD. The purpose of the Workgroup is to improve the Local Education Agency (LEA) Program. The emphasis of the meeting is to strategize various goals and activities aimed at enhancing Medi-Cal services provided on school sites and access by students to these services, while increasing federal reimbursement to LEAs for the cost of providing these services.

Free Care Waiver Reconsideration

A letter from CDHS was submitted to CMS on March 6, 2006 to request reconsideration of the Free Care waiver for the LEA Program. CDHS requested a response from CMS based on current federal laws and regulations within 60 days.

Speech-Language Equivalency State Plan Amendment (SPA) 05-010

CDHS is awaiting an equivalency ruling from the Office of the Attorney General regarding practitioner equivalency for speech-language pathologists with clinical or rehabilitative services credentials. Assembly Bill (AB) 2837, which specifies the qualifications of practitioners qualified to provide speech and audiology services, has been introduced into legislation. Although this bill may not expedite the SPA approval process, the Workgroup requested that LEAs support AB 2837 by writing letters of support to the legislature.

LEA Medi-Cal Provider Manual

The revised LEA portion of the Medi-Cal Provider Manual is scheduled to be published in May 2006. The manual will not be effective until July 1, 2006, but is being distributed early to help LEAs prepare for necessary system changes. EDS is currently editing the LEA Provider Manual and making the format consistent with other Medi-Cal provider manuals. CDHS and Navigant Consulting are working closely with EDS to provide feedback and answer LEA Program and policy questions. The updated LEA Provider Manual and the re-organization of information into 18 sections were discussed during the meeting.

Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) Trainings

The second CRCS training was conducted on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at Fresno COE. The third CRCS training was conducted on March 16, 2006 in Sacramento in a production studio. The taped CRCS training will soon be available to LEAs on DVD.

Upcoming SPA Implementation Trainings

SPA 03-024 implementation trainings are scheduled for April and May 2006. Information and registration materials are available on the LEA Program Web site. An overview of the training topics was discussed and the Workgroup provided feedback regarding the types of activities conducted during assessment and treatment services, which will be covered in the training. CDHS and Navigant Consulting are finalizing the presentation and handout materials. Concerns regarding the lack of registrations received thus far and the role of CDE in the LEA Program were also expressed. The Workgroup also suggested the need for ongoing yearly provider trainings and discussed the possibility of mandating LEA and vendor attendance.

Action:
What: Prepare questions and speaking points on specific topics that may need to be addressed during trainings.
Who: Workgroup
When: As soon as possible (prior to Downey training).

Action:
What: Disseminate the SPA implementation training flyer to SELPA directors, CSNO, and other appropriate organizations.
Who: Laura Baynham
When: As soon as possible.

Action:
What: Write a letter to CDE, on behalf of the Workgroup, expressing concerns regarding CDE's role in the LEA Program, and solicit their assistance for future training solicitations.
Who: John DiCecco, Laura Baynham, and Robert Powell
When: As soon as possible.

Action:
What: Discuss potential options and effectiveness of annual trainings, including mandating training attendance for LEAs and billing vendors.
Who: CDHS and Navigant Consulting
When: Not specified.

Action:
What: Improve communication with LEAs.
Who: CDHS and Navigant Consulting
When: Ongoing.

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Kansas OIG Report Summary

In January and February, the OIG released two reports on Kansas' school-based Medicaid program. The January report focused on Kansas' bundled rate methodology. The February report focused on health service claims billed in three sample LEAs during fiscal year 2002. Of 300 sample claims, 217 were found to be deficient. Deficiencies cited in the Kansas claims included services not rendered and non-compliance with prescription and referral requirements. Kansas provided guidance to its school instructing them to bill for _all_ special education students regardless of whether the student was receiving health services. The OIG recommended that Kansas refund the $5.1 million dollars that was overpaid to the three sample schools. In addition, the OIG recommended that Kansas calculate the portion of payments made to the other schools that was unallowable. Kansas disagreed with the OIG on both recommendations for repayment. However, Kansas did agree to correct the improper billing guidance provided to schools, and to improve oversight of documentation requirements.

LEA Program Web site

The LEA Program Web site auto-mailer is a resource to ensure LEAs are aware of the most current program and policy information. However, it has come to the attention of CDHS that auto-mailer registrations are not being fully processed. As a result, some people are unable to register successfully and may not receive automatic emails when the LEA Web site has been updated.

Action:
What: Review the auto-mailer registration process with CDHS/IT personnel, including the return verification e-mail and potential filters that may affect LEAs from receiving the verification e-mail.
Who: CDHS and Navigant Consulting
When: As soon as possible.

Other Issues

Fresno COE is currently having dial-up and claims transfer problems with EDS. This potentially may be a problem with Fresno COE's vendor rather than a widespread concern.

LAUSD is currently receiving complaints from parents regarding third party liability billing. LAUSD has expressed concerns regarding the inefficient flow of information from CDHS and EDS regarding services they "pay and chase".

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Action:
What: Fresno COE to obtain additional information regarding the dial-up issue and email CDHS; CDHS to follow-up and resolve potential issue, if necessary.
Who: CDHS and Fresno COE
When: Not specified.

Action:
What: LAUSD to summarize additional information regarding the third party liability issues and email CDHS; CDHS to follow-up and resolve issue.
Who: CDHS and LAUSD
When: Not specified.

Future Workgroup Meeting

The next Workgroup meeting for CDHS and providers will be held in Sacramento on June 7th.